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FOREIGN ANIMAL
DISEASES REPORT



MARCH-APRIL 1975

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U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
APHIS
EMERGENCY PROGRAMS
VETERINARY SERVICES

FINLAND FOUND FREE OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH
DISEASE BY USDA



Finland was recognized as free of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and rinderpest on January 30, 1975, by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, thus clearing the way for imports of cloven-hooved livestock into the United States from that country.

The action is based on animal disease investigations and onsite inspections in Finland by a USDA veterinarian. These investigations also confirmed that protective measures taken by Finland are sufficient to prevent the introduction of FMD and rinderpest

from infected countries.

Other nations considered free of FMD and rinderpest are: Canada, Mexico, the Central American countries, Panama, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Jamaica, most of the Antilles Islands in the Caribbean, Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, and the Trust Territories of the Pacific.

U. S. law prohibits the direct importation of domestic swine and ruminants (cattle, sheep, goats, and similar animals) from countries where FMD and rinderpest are declared to exist by USDA. This includes much of Europe and all countries in South America, Africa, and continental Asia.

Wild ruminants and swine may be imported into the United States from nations with FMD and rinderpest under special exemptions that require stringent tests, quarantines, and permanent confinement in a USDA-approved zoo.

EXOTIC NEWCASTLE DISEASE DIAGNOSED IN NEW YORK AVIARY

Exotic Newcastle disease was confirmed in an aviary in Bayshore, Long Island, New York, on March 5, 1975.

The aviary was placed under state hold order on February 27, 1975, based on preliminary tests conducted at the New York State Veterinary College Poultry Disease Diagnostic Laboratory.

A cooperative state-federal task force has been assembled in Bayshore to investigate

sources of infection, trace possible spread of the disease through the sale of exposed birds, and eliminate the outbreak.

Exotic Newcastle disease now exists in most countries in the world where producers must continually vaccinate their poultry flocks, and even then face losses and reduced production efficiency because of the disease. If it became established in the United States, American poultry, egg and pet bird industries would suffer drastic production and financial losses. Previously, exotic Newcastle disease in the continental United States was diagnosed in June, 1974.

It is emphasized that the outbreak poses no threat to consumers of poultry and poultry products.

TEST EXERCISE TO COMBAT FOREIGN SWINE DISEASES ENDS

A task force of 55 veterinarians and animal health experts were alerted to deal with a hypothetical outbreak of two foreign diseases of swine in Massachusetts from February 10-14, 1975. The week of intensive training covered problems they may face if and when a real animal disease outbreak occurs.

The group, which included state, federal, and university animal disease specialists from 16 northeastern states assembled in Auburn, Massachusetts, to handle the mock outbreaks.

The purpose of the test exercise was to insure having a thoroughly trained, efficient team in the northeastern United States, with the know-how and capability to quickly eliminate foreign diseases of livestock or poultry that may enter this country. The team known as the Northern Regional Emergency Animal Disease Eradication Organization (READEO) is currently handling an outbreak of exotic Newcastle disease in Long Island, New York.

The recently completed test included exercises in solving diagnostic, tracing, legal, quarantine, administrative, and other problems past experience indicates are likely to arise in future outbreaks.

USDA AMENDS IMPORT REGULATIONS FOR CANADIAN SHEEP AND GOATS

Canadian veterinarians will no longer be required to examine sheep and goats on the farm of origin if the animals are being shipped to the United States for immediate slaughter, according to changes in the U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations.

Sheep and goats sent to slaughter in the United States must still be free of evidence of communicable livestock diseases before entering the country. However, veterinary examinations may now be made at Canadian livestock assembly points before shipment.

Sheep and goats being imported for purposes other than slaughter must still be examined on the farm of origin. This precaution is taken primarily to detect scrapie, a slow acting, degenerative disease of sheep and goats that may be

present in a herd but not show up in some animals until months or years after exposure.

Both Canada and the United States have ongoing scrapie eradication programs. Veterinary officials in the two countries maintain surveillance, destroy infected flocks, and trace the movement of sheep from infected premises. Extended quarantines and bloodline investigations are required for sheep imported from scrapie-infected countries, except where the scrapie eradication program is comparable to that in the United States.

The amended federal regulations became effective on February 19, 1975.

U.S.-IRAN JOINT COMMISSION - ANIMAL HEALTH

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has named two of its specialists to the Agriculture Committee of the U.S.-Iran Commission established by the two countries in November, 1974. Iranian representatives of the Committee indicated that top priority should be given to animal health, plant pest control, and agricultural research. APHIS consultants, William M. Moulton, VMD, Chief of International Operations, Veterinary Services, and Joseph Gentry, Assistant to the Deputy Administrator, Plant Protection and Quarantine Programs, will meet with Iranian officials in April to work out details of an expanded Iran agricultural program. Kenneth A. Haines, Director International Programs Division, will represent the Agricultural Research Service.

PUERTO RICO FREE OF SCREWWORMS FOR FOUR MONTHS

It has been over 4 months since the last screwworm case in Puerto Rico--an indication of major progress toward eradication of this deadly livestock pest from the Commonwealth. This is the longest period without a screwworm case since the eradication program began in June, 1971.

Screwworms--larvae of the screwworm fly--feed on the living flesh in the wounds of warm-blooded animals. Infestations of the worms, if left untreated, can and do kill affected animals. To eradicate screwworms, millions of sexually sterilized screwworm flies are released over infested areas to mate with native, fertile flies. Eggs from such matings do not hatch, thus breaking the life cycle. If enough sterile matings take place, the fertile fly population is eventually eliminated.

The eradication effort in Puerto Rico began as a two-part program. Cost studies show that--before the program started--Puerto Rico livestock owners were losing between \$2 and \$2 $\frac{1}{4}$ million each year in screwworm-related losses. The eradication program was initiated to erase those losses and--at the same time--to test the screwworm eradication methods in tropical environments.

The information gained from the Puerto Rico eradication program will be used in the present U.S.-Mexico cooperative screwworm eradication program. The similarities in terrain and climate help in developing the best methods for eliminating screwworms in Mexico.

Screwworm cases dropped from 664 in 1973, to 207 in 1974, and no cases have been recorded so far in 1975.

USDA APPROVES HARRISBURG, PA., FACILITIES FOR LIVESTOCK EXPORTS

Animal handling facilities at the Pennsylvania State Fairgrounds, Harrisburg, Pa., have been approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a port of export for air shipment of livestock.

The facilities, located in the livestock portion of the Farm Show Building, meet federal requirements for handling and examining livestock prior to export. APHIS approval also provides for shipment of the animals through the Harrisburg International Airport.

All animals passing through livestock export terminals must be examined by Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) veterinarians to assure they are free of communicable disease, and they meet the health requirements of the receiving nations.

In recent years Harrisburg has become the principal export terminal for shipping Holstein-Friesian dairy cattle. During the 6 months from July through December, 1974, 14 shipments totalling 1,461 head of cattle were processed at the State Fairgrounds and shipped out of the Harrisburg airport.

APHIS standards for approved export facilities include: proper lighting and restraining devices for veterinary examinations; paved, skid-resistant floors for pens and chutes; safe gates and fences; adequate space for handling each shipment; separation of different lots of livestock; and provisions for feed, water, and shelter.

In addition to Harrisburg, 10 other locations have been approved for general livestock export by air: Richmond, Va.; Miami, Tampa, and St. Petersburg, Fla.; New Iberia, La.; Houston, Texas; San Francisco, Calif.; Portland, Oregon; Moses Lake, Washington; and Honolulu, Hawaii.

New York City and San Juan, Puerto Rico, have been approved for limited shipments of horses by air or sea. APHIS has also approved 10 ocean ports, 10 Mexican border ports, and about 50 Canadian border ports for the export of animals.

FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

In December, January, and February, five investigations of suspicious foreign animal diseases were reported in New York, Florida, Texas, and Alabama. All investigations were negative for foreign animal diseases.

Investigations were conducted by Drs. C. C. Christenberry, Floyd R. Crum, Harry W. Kinne, S. S. Newcomb, and F. G. Vickers.

Exotic Newcastle Disease Surveillance Program 1974

The national surveillance program was authorized on October 1, 1973. This report covers activities from that date through December 31, 1974. The program is directed by Veterinary Services, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA, Hyattsville, Md. Material for this report was compiled by the Poultry Disease Staff from reports submitted by poultry disease epidemiologists, specially trained State and Federal poultry disease diagnosticians and cooperating diagnostic laboratories.

THE DISEASE

Technically, exotic Newcastle disease is known as the "viscerotropic, velogenic" form of the virus disease—that is, it attacks the viscera, or internal organs, and it kills birds rapidly. It usually produces massive hemorrhages in the intestinal tract and reproductive organs. Birds often die before definite signs of the disease appear. As with domestic strains of Newcastle, sick birds exhale and excrete the infecting virus.

Exotic Newcastle disease has appeared in the United States several times since it was first detected in 1950. Each time it was stamped out; but the danger of this poultry disease to U.S. flocks is a continuing threat.

The virulent exotic Newcastle virus causes losses even in vaccinated flocks. In unvaccinated poultry, the death rate approaches 100 percent.

THE COOPERATIVE STATE-FEDERAL PROGRAM

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, in an attempt to prevent new introductions of exotic Newcastle disease, conducts a national program. USDA allows the importation of birds, poultry and poultry products, only under strict and specific health requirements. USDA personnel work closely with other Federal and State agencies to prevent the entry of smuggled birds and products.

Permits for commercial importation of foreign birds may be issued if the birds are confined first in a USDA-approved, privately owned, quarantine facility where their health status can be determined. From October 1973 through December 1974, 19 bird quarantine facilities were opened by commercial bird importers. Of 61 lots of birds entering the facilities, 14 were found to harbor exotic Newcastle disease virus and were refused entry. The other 46 lots were allowed entry.

The Veterinary Services Laboratory at Ames, Iowa, examines specimens from all bird shipments for exotic Newcastle disease virus. If any other disease agent is isolated, it is tested in growing chick embryos and susceptible poultry to find out if it is harmful to domestic birds.

SURVEILLANCE

In spite of strict regulations, the potential still remains for introduction of exotic Newcastle disease into this country either by accident or by illegal movements of birds and poultry. To counter this risk, USDA set up a surveillance program to find diseased birds quickly so infection can be stamped out before it gets a chance to spread.

During this reporting period, surveillance personnel and cooperating State veterinarians visited 122 primary poultry breeders—at the breeder's invitation—to evaluate security procedures aimed at preventing the introduction of exotic Newcastle or any other foreign disease agent into this most important segment of the poultry industry.

Surveillance team members made more than 5,500 contacts with poultry industry leaders, diagnostic laboratories, extension specialists and poultry scientists. These people are in positions where they would hear about unusual poultry disease outbreaks, thereby forming an early warning network to detect possible outbreaks of exotic Newcastle disease.

Tips received by APHIS veterinarians from the poultry industry contacts led to 538 field investigations of diseased poultry flocks. When necessary, suspect birds were sampled for laboratory testing.

OUTBREAKS

Although most of the field investigation proved not to be exotic Newcastle or other foreign poultry diseases, three outbreaks of viscerotropic, velogenic Newcastle were detected:

(1) El Paso, Tex.—This outbreak was confirmed on February 14 and affected 86 backyard poultry flocks and one commercial farm in an 80-square-mile area before being brought under control. Some 190,000 birds were destroyed; the owners were paid about \$400,000 to compensate them for their losses of infected or exposed birds.

(2) Hidalgo, Tex.—The disease was confirmed on May 13. It was confined to one backyard flock of mixed poultry. The disease was eradicated before it could spread.

(3) Bulverde, Tex.—This outbreak was confirmed on June 3 and was also confined to a single flock of mixed poultry on one farm.

OTHER FINDS OF EXOTIC NEWCASTLE DISEASE

In addition to the three outbreaks mentioned, exotic Newcastle disease was confirmed several times in birds being brought to the United States. These birds—pets, commercial imports or smuggled—were denied entry, destroyed or are being held for further testing.

August 1973:

San Ysidro, Calif.—parrots from Mexico

September 1973:

New York airport—parrots from Nigeria
New York airport—finches from an unknown source
New York airport—parrots from Colombia
New York airport—parakeets from Belgium
Clifton, N.J.—fighting chickens from Martinique

October 1973:

New York airport—parrot from Africa

December 1973:

New York airport—parrots from Liberia

January 1974:

San Ysidro, Calif.—penguins from Antarctica
El Paso, Tex.—parrots from Mexico
Terminal Island, Calif.—parrot from Africa

March 1974:

Schaumburg, Ill.—cockatoos and lorises from Indonesia

April 1974:

San Ysidro, Calif.—unidentified bird from Indonesia
Terminal Island, Calif.—parrot from South America
Miami, Fla.—canaries, mynahs and finches from Japan

May 1974:

Hammond, Ill.—parrots from Mexico
Miami, Fla.—sunbird, starling, flamingo, crane from Kenya

June 1974:

Miami, Fla.—fighting chickens from Spain
San Ysidro, Calif.—parrots from Mexico
Los Angeles, Calif.—parrots from Ghana
Los Angeles, Calif.—finches and canaries from Taiwan
Miami, Fla.—parrots from Ghana
Ferndale, Mich.—parrots and parakeets from Mexico
San Ysidro, Calif.—parrot from Mexico
Miami, Fla.—parrots, conures, parakeets, finches and mynah from Paraguay and India (being held for further testing)
Bronx, N.Y.—canaries and finches from England, Japan and Taiwan

July 1974:

San Ysidro, Calif.—parrots from Mexico
Clifton, N.J.—racing pigeons from Belgium
San Ysidro, Calif.—parrot from Mexico
San Ysidro, Calif.—parrot from Mexico
JFK airport, N.Y.—parrot from Colombia
Hidalgo, Tex.—parrots from Mexico
El Segundo, Calif.—canaries and finches from Taiwan
San Ysidro, Calif.—parrot from Mexico
San Ysidro, Calif.—parrots from Mexico
San Ysidro, Calif.—parrot from Mexico
Miami, Fla.—cranes, flamingos, storks and eagles from India, Nigeria and Bolivia (being held for further testing)
Miami, Fla.—coots, cormorants and penguins from Peru and So. Africa (being held for further testing)

August 1974:

Clifton, N.J.—doves and pigeons from the Philippines
San Ysidro, Calif.—macaws, parrots and conures from Nigeria and Mexico

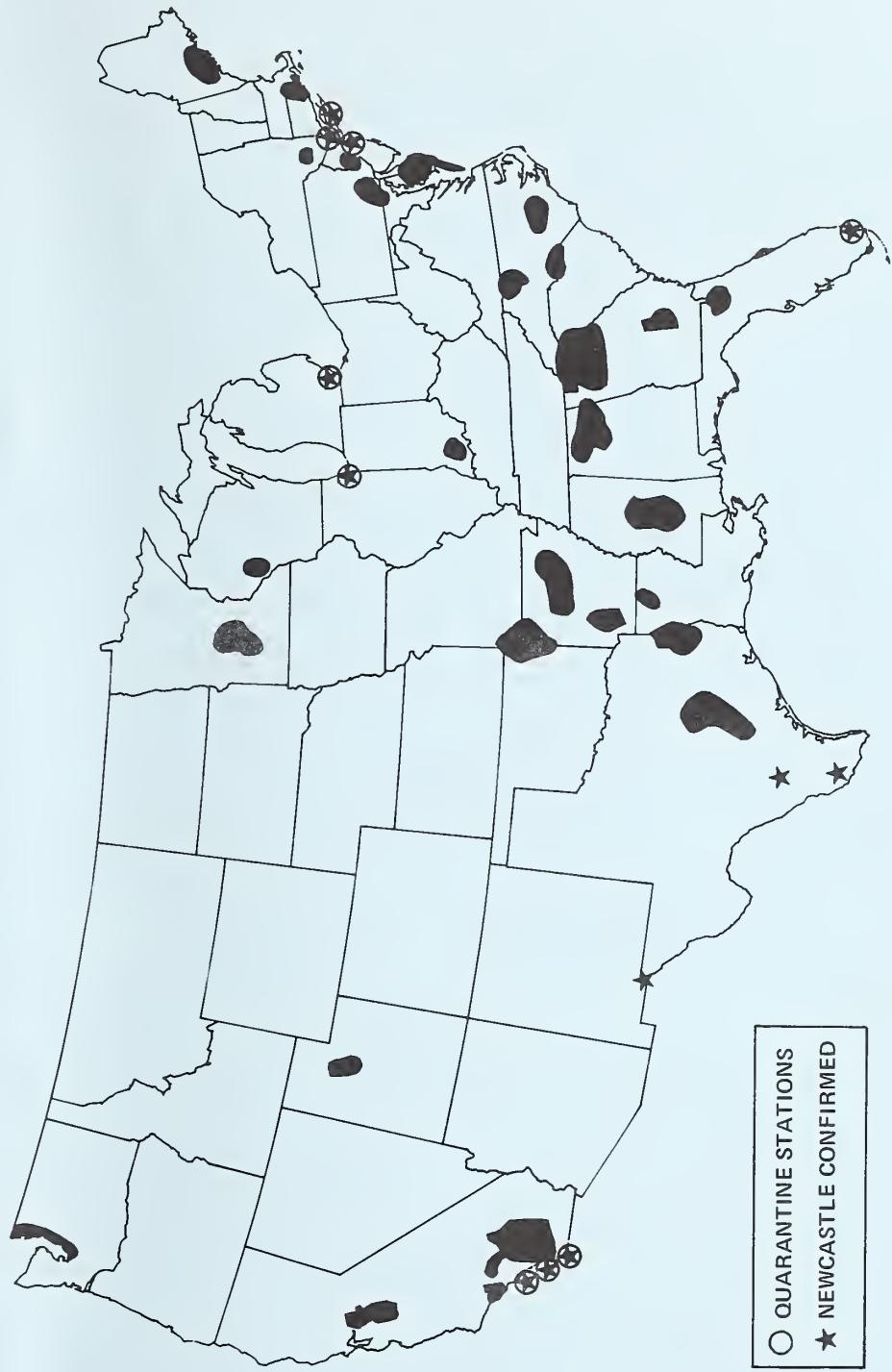
October 1974:

Miami, Fla.—macaw, toucan, and parrots from Nicaragua
Clifton, N.J.—pigeons from England

November 1974:

Miami, Fla.—parrots from Nicaragua

MAJOR POULTRY RAISING AREAS



WORLD DISEASE REPORTS*

Country	Date 1974	New Outbreaks	Country	Date 1974	New Outbreaks
<u>Foot-and-Mouth Disease</u>					
Argentina	September 1-15	60	Peru	September 16-30	1
Brazil	July 27-Aug. 9	110	South Africa	September	1
	Aug. 24-Sept. 6	55	Spain	September	1
Colombia	September 1-15	7	Uruguay	September 21-27	4
Germany	October	10	Venezuela	August	4
India	June-July	85			
Iraq	November 1-15	6			
<u>Rinderpest</u>					
India	June-July	16			
<u>Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia</u>					
Sierra Leone	March-October	1			
<u>Lumpy Skin Disease</u>					
Madagascar	April-June	8			
<u>Sheep Pox</u>					
Greece	August	30	Iraq	November 1-15	317**
India	June-July	7	Tunisia	September	5
<u>African Swine Fever</u>					
Portugal	Sept. 16-Oct. 31	28	Spain	Sept. 16-Oct. 31	8
<u>Teschen Disease</u>					
Austria	September 1-15	3	Madagascar	April-June	22

(*Extracted from International Office of Epizootics Monthly Circular #335).
 (**Cases).